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TOP SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

21 September 1953

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Bureau of
FAR ... AFFAIRS
DEC 11 1953

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Resettlement of Chinese Agents Used in Korea

Lt. Col. William Burke of G-2 came to see me on this matter last week. He reported that CINCFE has been, and still is, using Chinese Communist POWs as combat intelligence agents and now has on hand a sizeable number (well over a hundred, he thought). CINCFE desires to retain this corps of trained agents as long as US forces remain in Korea, but the agents themselves have indicated that, now that the fighting has stopped, they would like to retire from espionage, go through the truce procedures, become non-returnees, and be resettled. To persuade them to continue as agents, CINCFE has made money payments to them and has promised eventual resettlement outside Communist China. CINCFE has now asked Washington's advice as to how arrangements can be made to resettle them in Formosa or Hong Kong. Col. Burke said that the Army wanted to have the Department's ideas on this question, specifically whether it would be in order for the Army Attache in Taipei to take the matter up with the Chinese authorities.

I consulted Mr. Johnson (FE) this morning and subsequently told Col. Burke that:

a. The Department thought it premature to initiate any negotiations with the Chinats at this time primarily because we have not as yet made formal arrangements with them for resettlement of the ordinary non-returnees;

b. Once that has been done, we would anticipate no particular problem in making similar arrangements for the retired agents;

c. The question of who should do the negotiating (Army Attache, CINCFE, Embassy Taipei) could be decided later on;

d. We should like to have more information on the number of agents involved and when CINCFE expects to release them.

Col. Burke said that he was entirely satisfied with the above and that the Army would do nothing about negotiating with the Chinats on this matter without further consultation with the Department.

William C. Trueheart

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